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BOOK REVIEW

RHOPALOCERA DIRECTORY, by John R. Beattie. xiv + 365 pp., Insecta Directory, Volume 1. JB Indexes, 2377 Virginia St., Berkeley, CA 94709, July 1976. Price: \$30.00 to individuals, \$40.00 to libraries.

John Beattie has done a great service to working rhopalocerists of the world. In this compact volume he has listed alphabetically: Genera proposed from 1834-1971, including sub- and supra-generic names (pp. 1-64); and, species names, including subspecies and infrasubspecific ones (pp. 65-292). Two supplements complete the book: an alphabetical series of lists for each of the families recognized, including all of the generic names proposed since 1834 (pp. 293-300) and an inverse-sort of all generic and species names (pp. 301-365). The last is useful and unusual. It is a help running down variant spelling of a name.

There are almost 170,000 entries in the directory. It saves hours of time running down what has been published about a particular genus or butterfly. You can quickly check the use of a name. There is this proviso: the name must appear in either the *Berichte* or the *Zoo. Rec.* For example: *Colorado Butterflies* has never been listed in *Zoo. Rec.* Therefore there is no citation to names in it. Similarly, such books generally are not indexed by species or genus names in *Zoo. Rec.* and you will find no citation to them in the *Directory*. This is not Beattie's fault, it is the fault of *Zoo. Rec.* So long as you recognize that *Zoo. Rec.* is incomplete you will have no trouble. I tested the time-saving involved in a name-search. I hold *Zoo. Rec.* 1920-1971 in my library. It took me over an hour to check and note the inclusions of *Vanessa antiopa* in those volumes. All that I did with the *Directory* was turn to the alphabetic species-list and on p. 80 I found 58 additional references to the 17 I had located from 1920 on. I also found out that there is a 1908 reference under Papilionidae!

The *Directory* is not the whole answer to name problems. It

does not replace Kirby's *Catalogue* . . . nor Sherborn's *Index Animalium* but extends them to a degree. It does not give primary citations, only reference to where in *Berichte* or *Zoo. Rec.* you can find the citation. This is a great help to those with access to these reference books. Thus the *Directory* is not a book for a general collector. It is required addition to the library of individuals, or institutions, carrying on serious research among the Rhopalocera. It is equally useful to African, American, Asian, Australian and European researchers.

Beattie has told me that he hopes to follow this volume with several on moths, the first listing genera, etc. If this is successful, then he plans to do the other orders of insects. More power to him! He has done an immeasurable favor for all serious students of butterflies. I hope he will gain the support needed to carry out his plans.

Note: The *Directory* can be ordered directly from JB Indexes. A ten day trial examination is available.

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